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### Teen thanks troops

A California teenager works to collect a million messages of appreciation for military members.



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### Volksmarch set for Stuttgart

The Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club's 30th annual event will start and end on Robinson Barracks.



### Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions

Roses to:

All the individuals in Stuttgart and Garmisch who helped make the communities' Independence Day celebrations so successful. From the 6th Area Support Group command group and directorate heads to the volunteers "on the ground," your time and talents on behalf of the community were greatly appreciated. (For more about the July 4 fests, see pages 8 and 9)

Safe drivers throughout the 6th Area Support Group area of responsibility. Military police throughout Europe conducted 7,000 seat belt checks during the July 4 holiday weekend, and no drivers were cited for failing to buckle up. Thanks to all who make safety a priority every day.

### Thorns to:

Golfers who ignore both sporting etiquette and common courtesy at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. Though the vast majority of players patiently wait their turn before teeing off, a stubborn minority repeatedly barge to the front of the line causing further delays for those who are doing what they are supposed to. Can't course personnel enhance the enforcement of the rules?

To let your voice be heard throughout the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities, e-mail your thorns, roses, letters and comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil, or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

[Front page] Garmisch resident Louisa Pratt dresses in the fashion of freedom during the community's Independence Day fest.



Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris 6th Area Support Group Commander

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## News reports don't tell the whole story

# DoD civilian says U.S. effort improving lives in Iraq

By Bonnie Murphy

Commentary

'm appalled at the "news" as it's reported from Iraq. Just as disturbing is the lack of knowledge a lot of people have about what's really going on, why we're there, and what it's really like.

I'd like to set the record straight.

My job as an environmentalist is primarily the protection of the environment and the dis-

posal of Department of Defense-generated hazardous

I volunteered to go to Iraq, and last December I was selected to set up the first disposal operations in the forward deployed area.

I have been stationed at Balad Air Base, Life Support Area Anaconda, since Dec. 28. On several occasions, my work has taken me to Baghdad.

I extended my initial tour from 120 days to 155 days, and I returned to Baghdad June 7 for six more months.

### Iragis appreciate effort

It appears to me that 95 percent of the Iraqi people want a U.S. presence in their country. It's only a handful of insurgents with weapons who are attacking our bases, convoys

The older generations say that although they may never see the freedoms we're trying to bring to their country, they know their children will enjoy the rights that many of us take for granted in the United States.

I've had the opportunity to meet and speak with day laborers coming on LSA Anaconda. They are grateful for the work and pay they receive.

Men with tear-filled eyes have taken my hand and thanked me because they can now provide for their families - something they couldn't do when Saddam was in power.

I've met engineers, pilots and other well-educated men who, for the first time since Saddam took office, are returning to their homeland from self-imposed exile and are able to find work on one of the many U.S. bases there.

#### Supporting schools, hospitals

Before I left Balad, I was able to coordinate the donation of \$3,500 worth of hospital disinfectant and dental amalgam to the local hospital from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service's inventory of excess property.

Our Balad team of doctors and medics makes regular visits to the surrounding communities to provide medical care and assistance to the people and teach new technologies to Iraqi medical personnel.

People are being taught field sanitation and hand-washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs. About 400,000 children have now received up-to-date immunizations. And all of the existing hospitals are now open and staffed, compared to 35 percent before the war.

My organization, the Defense Logistics Agency, and its partner, the Army Materiel Command, are sponsoring a local secondary school. We've received \$65,500 of Saddam's money to completely rebuild the school.

Our school is only one of 11 schools being sponsored by different units on LSA Anaconda. School attendance

Men have taken my hand and, with tear-filled eyes, thanked me because they can now provide for their families - something they couldn't do when Saddam was in power.

> has increased by 80 percent, and for the first time girls are allowed to attend classes.

### Enhancing quality of life

Our facility engineers and members of the Navy "Seabees" are rebuilding outdated sewer lines and constructing a new water treatment plant that will serve the entire area.

This is being done in every major city in Iraq. More than 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time.

We're updating and constructing new power plants throughout the country. Now the entire populace receives twice the electric power it did before the war.

More than 400,000 people have telephone service for the

The port of Um Qasr was renovated so grain can be off loaded from ships faster. Farmers are being educated on better methods, and new technologies are being introduced.

Local contractors working on our bases are, for the first time, able to receive lubricant oils, and hydraulic and brake fluids for their equipment.

Also, local security is being enhance by the newly formed Iraqi Civil Defense Force, which trains on LSA Anaconda.

The Iraqi defense teams work and learn side-by-side with U.S. Soldiers. They appear proud to be learning from their American counterparts and eager to help in the battle against the handful of insurgents making life miserable in Iraq.

Every day our troops are finding buried weapons and chemicals that must be disposed of.

The dangerous chemicals pose a threat to the environment, health and safety of not only the Iraqi people but also the entire world if they were to come into the wrong hands.

### A reason to be proud

I've met some wonderful Soldiers serving in Iraq. As Americans, we should all be proud and supportive of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I believe in my job and my country, and I want my grandchildren to always be able to enjoy their freedoms.

That's why I'm going back.

Murphy, who earned a Defense Logistics Agency's Employee of the Quarter award for her service in Iraq, wrote this commentary while on leave in Florida to attend her daughter's high school graduation ceremony.

She has since returned to Iraq.

### What's your opinion?

Is the national news media missing the "real story" in Iraq? To support - or challenge - this or any other commentary in The Citizen, e-mail your feedback to citizen@6asg.army.mil.

### Writer thanks community for support

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the make a very difficult time a bit more bearable. members of the Stuttgart military community for your support following the recent loss of my mother, Mrs. Melvin Etta Chesney.

Your prayers, flowers and kind words helped to

I can assure you that I will never forget your thoughtfulness and kindness.

> Lt. Col. Geraldine Jones Stuttgart



U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester polishes the new chief warrant officer 5 rank insignia he has placed on the shoulders of Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Peterman, the technical warrant officer assignment manager for U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army. Peterman was the keynote speaker at the July 9 ceremony that marked the end of the warrant officer corps' use of the "eagle rising" insignia.

# Stuttgart ceremony marks end of warrant officer insignia

'Eagle rising' replaced by branch-specific signifiers

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

t's not every day that an icon of the counterculture is quoted during a military ceremony. But for members of the U.S. Army's warrant officer corps, July 9 was far from just another day.

"The times they are a-changin'," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Peterman, using the words of Bob Dylan to express the sentiment of the day.

After 83 years perched on the uniforms of all warrant officers, the "eagle rising" insignia was officially exchanged for branch-specific signifiers in a Patch Chapel ceremony that coincided with the warrant officer corps' birthday.

The 11 a.m. gathering also marked one other change, as a new insignia for the rank of chief warrant officer 5 also went into effect.

"At the heart of the change is the complete integration of the warrant officer into the larger officer corps," Peterman said. "It will eliminate the perception of the warrant officer as 'a different animal."

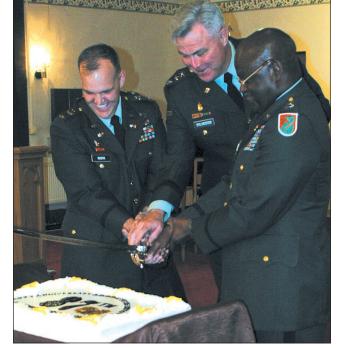
In such a tradition-rich environment as the military, the loss of the cherished symbol did not occur without regret – though as U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester told the assembled warrant officers, "You aren't going to give [the insignia] up on the inside. Inside you know that that eagle holds the essence of what being a warrant officer is all about."

Reflecting on his early days in the military and the mentoring he received from warrant officers, Sylvester said the sight of the eagle rising insignia "absolutely did strike fear into the hearts of us mere mortals."

Putting the change in historical perspective, Peterman said military tradition has always been tempered with transformative efforts, noting that at one time female service members wore different insignia than did their male counterparts.

"Don't get caught up in the minutiae," he told his fellow warrant officers. "Don't let it keep you from becoming the best Soldier, teacher and technician you can be."

The historical role of warrant officers, Peterman said, has been to instruct young Soldiers and mentor new officers "who



From left, Warrant Officer 1 Jeff Rudyk, Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester and Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Jackson cut the warrant officer corps' birthday cake at the end of the July 9 ceremony in the Patch Chapel.

will tell their story for the rest of their career about 'the warrant officer who took care of me.'

"Never forget," Peterman concluded, "that we are here first to defend and always to serve."

Though the rising eagle will no longer appear on the uniforms of warrant officers, it has not completely disappeared from the ranks. Warrant officer candidates will wear the symbol until they graduate from the warrant officer basic course.

For more about the warrant officer corps visit the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career Center Web site at http://leav-www.army.mil/wocc/index.htm.

### **News & Notes**

### Patch front gate closures

The Patch Barracks main gate will be closed to incoming traffic July 20 and 21, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Incoming traffic will be rerouted through the main gate exit lane.

The Patch Barracks main gate outbound lane will be closed July 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. due to construction. Traffic will exit through the K & K gate.

### Area closures, changes

- The **Patch Community Club's** Wednesday and Friday lunch program will be closed July 14, 16, 21 and 23.
- The AAFES Kelley Shoppette has changed its hours of operation to Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### RB Chapel Annex reopens

The Religious Education Facility, building 116 on Robinson Barracks, celebrates its grand reopening July 23 at 2 p.m. The community is invited to join in the celebration.

For details call the 6th ASG Chaplain's Office at 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

### ODP soccer coaches sought

The Olympic Development Program is accepting applications for qualified coaches for the 2004-05 soccer season.

Applicants should have a valid USSF D state coaching license or higher or be willing to become licensed.

Responsibilities include scheduling regular practices as well as participating in local tournaments or leagues.

For details call Sven Stadtrecher at 0170-270-3763 or Stephan Zappey at 0711-577-9243.

### AFCEA technology expo

The Stuttgart Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association hosts the Stuttgart military community Technology Expo July 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center, building 2337.

More than 50 exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest in emerging technologies, hardware, software and services

Entrance is free. For more information e-mail Melanie Yanon at yanon@ncsievents.com.

### Volunteers needed for event

The 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Opportunity Office is seeking volunteers for the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

The first meeting is July 21 at noon in the Patch Community Club. For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Williams at 421-2892/civ. 0711-729-2892, e-mail williamsc@ 6asg.army.mil, or contact Cheryl Stovall at 421-2649/civ. 0711-729-2649, e-mail cheryl.stovall@us.army.mil.

### 24-Hour Marathon captains meet

A 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest team captain's meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 2 p.m. in the Patch Barracks Commandant's conference room, building 2316.

For more information visit www.stuttgart-community-

#### Free concert at Patch Skate Park

There will be a free "21 and under" concert held July 30 at 6 p.m. at the Patch Skate Park.

Three local bands, 12 on the Meter, BruSworn and Apathy, will perform. For details call 434-5567/civ. 0711-68639-5567.

### SNAP meetings scheduled

Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program training will be held July 14, 10 a.m., in the Robinson Barracks Community Theater, building 145 and July 28, 10 a.m., in the Panzer Kaserne Installation Coordinator's Office, building 2974.

For more information about SNAP or to volunteer, contact Program Coordinator Ernest Epps at 421-4615/civ. 0711-729-4615 or e-mail eppse@6asg.army.mil.

### Yoga classes move to the SWC

Yoga classes are now held in the Stuttgart Wellness Center, Patch Barracks building 2307, 2nd floor.

Basic Yoga for beginners is held Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and Intermediate Yoga is held Thursdays, 6 p.m.. The first class is free. For details call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.

### Lovett takes helm of NSWU-2

## Replaces Weers as top Sailor in Stuttgart-based special warfare unit

By Mildred Green

he event took place on an Army post, but Naval Special Warfare Unit 2's June 24 change-of-command ceremony was decidedly nautical in nature.

Flanked by Sailors standing at attention, distinguished guests entered the NSWU-2 headquarters building on Panzer Kaserne to the traditional naval sounds of a ringing bell and the blowing of the bows and whistle.

The ceremony itself marked the transfer of NSWU-2's command from Capt. Gerald V. Weers to Capt. Willie T. Lovett III.

The command change began with a prayer by 6th Area Support Group Chaplain Capt. Paul Pasamonti, who was followed by the event's guest speaker, U.S. Navy Commodore Capt. David B. Morrison from Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach,

The command change ceremony, Morrison said, represented the conclusion of a "special" chapter under Weers' command and "yet another moment of pride" for the incoming leader.

"[Lovett's] new station," Morrison continued, "represents the strongest vote of confidence in his ability."

Morrison also spoke to the attendees about "work of real value." Too many individuals, he said, fall into a niche and don't strive for greater things; the best leaders, he said, "desire a significance."

He ended his speech by telling Weers and his crew, "I salute you and your accomplishments."

For his efforts at the helm of NSWU-2, Weers was presented with the meritorious service medal for outstanding meritorious achievement from June 2002 to June 2004.

Weers accepted the award by giving thanks to his crew, and told them they will remain in good



Incoming Naval Special Warfare Unit 2 Commander Capt. Willie T. Lovett III salutes members of his unit during the change of command ceremony June 24.

hands under Lovett's leadership. "I can think of no better choice for command," he said.

With a nod toward their continued involvement in the ongoing war on terrorism, Weers told members of the 352nd Special Operations Squadron and 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) - two local commands that work with NSWU-2 - "I wish you the best. Good hunting in the future."

After bidding Weers good luck on his next assignment, NSWU-2's new commander challenged his Sailors to maintain their high standards

"We are the quiet professionals here," Lovett said. "The future of our nation depends on [our work]."







### Racing for recruits

The Navy - and its "Accelerate Your Life" recruiting campaign - took the spotlight on and off the track at the June 26 Alan Kulwicki 250 in West Allis, Wisc. For more about the event and the Navy visit www.navy.mil.

### Scouts offer summer camps

### **Girl Scouts**

Aug. 10 to 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Panzer Kaserne. Register by Aug. 9. For information call Lynn Rizzo at 07033-309672.

### **Cub Scouts**

Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, 3:30 to 8:30 p.m., Panzer range. Register by Aug. 1. For information e-mail neuses@bunt.com.

# 52nd Signal Battalion gets new commander

Beuckens replaces Sherod during July 7 ceremony on Patch

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

t. Col. John K. Beuckens took command of the Patch Barracks-based 52nd Signal Battalion during a July 7 ceremony in Patch's Washington Square.

Beuckens replaced Lt. Col. F. William Sherod, who had helmed the battalion since July 2002.

Sherrod was praised by 2nd Signal Brigade Commander Col. Hubert Newman for his leadership of the battalion during the heightened operations tempo of the global war on terrorism.

"Over the past two years there has not been one day that this great battalion has not answered its nation's call," Newman said.

52nd Signal's successful support of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other undisclosed locations was reflective, Newman said, of Sherod's "sound decision-making, superior team-building skills and technical expertise."

The incoming commander, Newman said, not only brings "an operational focus and get-it-done perspective" to the battalion, but also is married to a lieutenant colonel with a reputation for excellent leadership. "So if you screw it up, John, we'll just swap you out for Linda," he said with a smile.

Over the past two years there has not been one day that this great battalion did not answer its nation's call.

**Col. Hubert Newman** 2nd Signal Brigade

Beuckens said his approach to leading the command can be summarized in three words: "Attitude, focus, excellence."

The battalion's mission, he noted, leaves little time for resting on one's laurels. "While your accomplishments are many," he said, "there is work to be done."

During his time behind the podium, Sherod thanked the men and women of the 52nd Signal Battalion for their dedication to duty and mission-focused mindset.

"These folks are real professionals, and they know how to get the job done," he said. "They're the finest in the Army and I'm proud to have been their commander."



[Above] Lt. Col. Linda Beuckens, wife of the 52nd Signal Battalion's incoming commander, Lt. Col. John Beuckens, and their son, Sean, 4, listen to remarks during the July 7 change-of-command ceremony on Patch Barracks.

[Right] The 52nd Signal Battalion's incoming commander, Lt. Col. John Beuckens, left, and its outgoing commander, Lt. Col. F. William Sherod, meet after the battalion's July 7 change-of-command ceremony.



# History projects preserve veterans' voices

# From Pearl Harbor to the Persian Gulf, service members' stories saved for future generations

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

rom the members of America's "Greatest Generation" to today's troops on the front lines of the global war on terrorism, the stories of U.S. service members will resonate across the ages thanks to the efforts of a number of military and civilian historical organizations.

Efforts such as the Veterans History Project and institutions including the U.S. Army Center for Military History are constantly on the lookout for both first-person accounts of wartime service and individuals willing to record and preserve these stories.

With one active and 24 reserve history detachments, the Army seeks to preserve both individual and organizational histories from as long ago as World War I and as recent as Operation Enduring Freedom.

This military effort is augmented by a number of private and governmental organizations.

### Veterans' history resources

• U.S. Army Center of Military History (www.army.mil/cmh)

The CMH is responsible for the appropriate use of history throughout the U.S. Army. The center records the official history of the Army in times of peace and war and also advises on relevant historical matters. The center works with the Army school system to ensure that the study of history is a significant part of the training of officers and noncommissioned officers.

• Veterans History Project (www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/)

A project of the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, the VHP is focused on documenting first-hand accounts of U.S. service members and civilians who participated in any military conflict in the 20th century. The VHP relies on volunteers to interview, record, compile and donate materials, and encourages both amateurs and experts to participate in its efforts.

• War Veterans Oral History Project (www.warveteransproject.org) Partnered with the Library of Congress and the Veterans History Project, the WVOHP is a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting the memories, accounts and documents of U.S. war veterans.

[Right] Maj. Philip J. Farese of the 49th Military History Detachment shares a laugh with World War II veteran Henry French June 4 in Normandy, France. Farese led a contingent of historians to Normandy to record the oral histories of veterans who were in the area for the 60th anniversary of D-Day.



## '30 years of honor, dignity, commitment' ——

# EUCOM's retiring deputy commandant lauded for service, selflessness

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

nly one of Lt. Col. Geraldine Jones' relatives was able to be in Stuttgart for her retirement, but the July 7 farewell ceremony for the U.S. European Command's departing deputy commandant was most definitely a family affair.

"In my life, I have been blessed with two wonderful families," Jones said. "The one I was born into, and the one that is made up of the men and women who wear this uniform."

A standing-room-only crowd filled EUCOM's headquarters conference room for an afternoon ceremony to honor Jones, who rose from the enlisted ranks into the officer corps during her 30-year career.

"Nobody starts out as a private and ends up as a lieutenant colonel without being an individual of great drive, great education and great perserverance," said Brig. Gen. (select) Richard Mills, EUCOM's deputy director of operations.

"Virtually all of her assignments have involved taking care of Soldiers," Mills continued, adding that the men and women of EUCOM "live better, work better and will fight better because she was here."

An activated Army Reserve Soldier who spent her final two years in uniform as the deputy to EUCOM Commandant Col. Mary J. Shanks, Jones was praised by her supervisor for extending that sense of selfless service beyond the EUCOM perimeter.

"Lt. Col. Jones is probably a member of every organization in this community," Shanks said, noting that it was not uncommon for her deputy to spend her after-duty hour helping newcomers become acclimated

I have been blessed
with two wonderful families –
the one I was born into, and
the one that is made up
of the men and women who
wear this uniform.

Lt. Col. Geraldine Jones U.S. European Command

and integrated into the Stuttgart military community.

"Lt. Col. Jones' heart is in the right place – always." Shanks said. "She will try to make everything right for everyone. And she'll feed you, too."

Among the many tokens of appreciation that Jones received during the ceremony were a Legion of Merit Award, a letter of congratulations from President George W. Bush, and a U.S. flag that had flown over the EUCOM headquarters building.

But it was clear that the aspect of the ceremony that she would treasure the most was the opportunity to spend time with members of her extended military family.

"For 30 years, you never let me down," Jones said. "I won't be wearing this uniform for too many days after today, but I can assure you that I will never stop thinking of you all as my family, and I will be eternally grateful for all that you have added to my life."



Lt. Col. Geraldine Jones receives a congratulatory hug from one of the many well-wishers who attended her July 7 retirement ceremony in the EUCOM headquarters building.

# After 21 years, Crowley calls it a career

## Stuttgart MP's discipline, dedication 'set the standard'

By Hugh C. McBride

fter 21 years in the Army, 1st Sgt. Brian J. Crowley found himself facing a decision that he hadn't confronted since middle school: what to do with the rest of his life.

"When I was in the fifth grade, our teacher asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up," Crowley said. "I stood up and said I wanted to join the Army and be an MP."

A foregone conclusion that took root at an age at which many children have yet to settle on a favorite sports team, Crowley's career came to a close June 30 with a retirement ceremony on Kelley Barracks' Cooper Field.

Though the farewell event put Crowley at center stage, the man who had served with the 6th Area Support Group Provost Marshal's Office since 2001 spent his final day in uniform in a manner that colleagues said was similar to the way he had conducted himself over the past two decades: focused on Soldiers other than himself.

### 'Discipline and professionalism'

He may not have put his career goals into words until 1975, but Crowley said the path that he followed began three decades earlier, when his father served as a military police Soldier during World War II.

"His look and his example set the tone for my life," Crowley said.

As he looked back over a career that was marked by change ("We went from hats to berets [and] C-Rations to



Terri Alejandro

6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris presents 1st Sgt. Brian Crowley with a flag that had flown over all four Stuttgart-area installations.

MRE's. ... We went from being all we can be to being an Army of One," he recalled) Crowley said his enduring memory was of love – for his nation, his family, his service branch and his fellow Soldiers.

### 'He set the standard'

Though Crowley was loathe to sing his own praises, others at the retirement ceremony were more than happy to chorus his accomplishments and impact.

6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn

A Soldier knows better than anyone how precious peace is. 1st Sgt. Crowley has served well in protecting our peace and our

> Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris 6th Area Support Group

freedom.

Bonéy-Harris described Crowley as "an outstanding noncommissioned officer [who] set the standard for his subordinates to emulate.

"A Soldier knows better than anyone how precious peace is," Bonéy-Harris said. "1st Sgt. Crowley has served well in protecting our peace

and freedom."
6th ASG PMO Maj. John Sivils said Crowley "did not fail.
He was always there with the right decision at the right time."

In addition to the complimentary comments, Crowley also received an Army Meritorious Service Award and a flag that had flown over all four Stuttgart installations.

And though he spent a career assisting, protecting and serving, Crowley ended his military service with a request.

"I just ask that you love our Army and love our country," he said.

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In addition to food and fireworks, the "All-American July 4 Celebration" on Robinson Barracks also enticed the more sturdy-stomached fest-goers with a few high-speed attractions.



[Above] 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-

Harris (left) and Louisa Pratt (with torch and hat), watch as Garmisch-Partenkirchen Mayor Thomas Schmid taps the ceremonial keg July 2 on Artillery Kaserne.

[Left] Two cushioned combatants square off July 1 during the Robinson Barracks event's opening evening.

Jacob Vernau, 10, flashes a patriotic smile during the annual German-American Fest on Garmisch's Artillery Kaserne July 2. The Garmisch military community celebrated America's birthday with rides, games, food and fireworks.

# Families feete Fourth with fests, fireworks. Families feete Fourth with fests, fireworks.

By Melanie Casey

Independence Day revelers in Garmisch and Stuttgart had plenty of opportunities to celebrate America's 228th birthday.

A daylong fest on Garmisch's Artillery Kaserne brought Germans and Americans together for an event that blended elements from both cultures, while the four-day "All-American July Fourth Celebration" on Stuttgart's Robinson Barracks gave community members a long weekend's worth of "independence entertainment."

### Garmisch goes 'Hog' wild

Garmisch's July 2 "German-American 4th of July Fest" boasted live music, games for the young and old, good old American fare such as hot dogs and hamburgers, cold Bavarian beer, and, of course, fireworks.

Before the backdrop of Germany's tallest peak, the Zugspitze, local American and German Harley Davidson motorcycle enthusiasts gathered on Sheridan Kaserne and, with keg in tow, took a ceremonial "hog ride" through the town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The ride and subsequent delivery of the keg via the American-made motorcycles was

designed as a way to start this year's celebration in a special way, said Garmisch resident better place to raise kids. [The area] articulates the 'it takes a village' theory. Everyone knows

"Harley Davidson embodies the American spirit," noted Col. Thomas Klincar, dean of academics at the NATO School in nearby Oberammergau, who took part in the ride.

Once the keg had been delivered to the fest site in the Breitenau Housing Area on Artillery Kaserne, Garmisch-Partenkirchen Burgemeister Thomas Schmid, along with 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris and Mittenwald Brewery representative Hans Kleisl, ceremoniously tapped the keg and proclaimed the fest open.

"We are glad to have you here," Schmid told the crowd.

Revelers from near and far appeared to be just as glad to be in Garmisch to celebrate America's birthday.

"The Garmisch area is wonderful," said Maj. Dave Tiedemann, who traveled to the area from Kaiserslautern. "The fest is well organized, the crowd is nice, and the kids are enjoying it." Members of the Garmisch military community were enthused not only with the fest, but also with life in Garmisch in general.

"Garmisch is an amazing place to live," said resident Kathy Tone. "You couldn't design a

everyone and they feel comfortable with each other's kids."

"You're on vacation 24/7," said Jan Stephan. "This is the place people pay to live in – and

### Stuttgart celebrates 'All-American' style

The day before the Garmisch event, crowds converged on the fest tent in the RB Elementary School parking lot to kick off Stuttgart's celebration.

Early-arriving attendees were welcomed by 6th ASG Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone and serenaded with a medley of patriotic songs courtesy of the Stuttgart Singers. As she would do in Garmisch, Bonéy-Harris then poured the ceremonial first beer to start the festivities.

Over the next three days, community members were treated to rides, games, food and entertainment. The fest tent featured live music every evening, and daily highlights included a Youth Services-sponsored flea market and the area's first "Kids Idol" talent show.

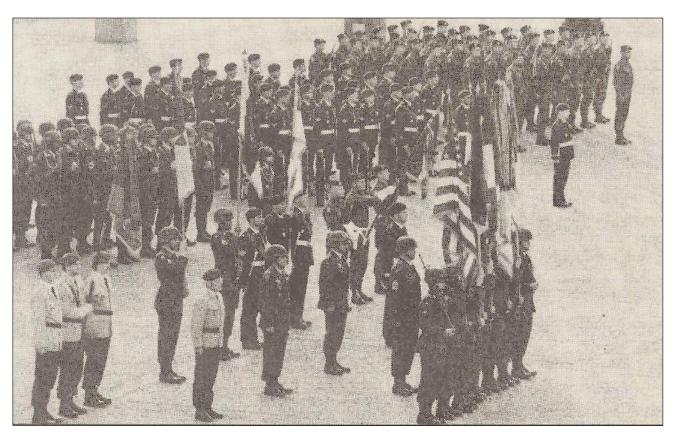
As was also the case in Garmisch, Stuttgart's Independence Day event ended with a fireworks display.

- Additional reporting by Hugh C. McBride



One of the many games held during Garmisch's German American Fest July 2 on Artillery Kaserne was the Beer Crate Stacking Contest. Contestants had to stack the crates one at a time without falling off. The winner received a jar full of cash.

# From Helenen Kaserne to Kelley Barracks



Ending its 41-year presence on Kelley Barracks, VII Corps furls its colors for the final time during a ceremony held March 18, 1992, in the Stuttgart Schlossplatz. On hand for the historical event were French, Canadian, German and U.S. Soldiers as well as German and American dignitaries.

## Post once home to German air regiment, U.S. Army VII Corps headquarters

By Melanie Casey

It may be hard to believe for those familiar with the area now, but Kelley Barracks was once the bustling hub of Headquarters, U.S. Army, VII Corps.

In 1937, the German military bought the land for what would become *Helenen Kaserne* from the city for a paltry 50 *Reichspfennig* per square meter. This price was less than what the city had asked, since the land – which was being used as a nursery at the time – was rich, fertile and valuable. As consolation to the city, the military agreed to retain at least 80 percent of the wooded area, which perhaps is why Kelley and its surrounding area remains verdant and beautiful.

### Helenen Kaserne

Helenen Kaserne officially opened on May 7, 1938, with a celebration including a parade, fireworks and open house. The first unit housed there was the German 5th Air Signal Regiment, which was responsible for constructing and maintaining airstrips and aircraft communications for the German Army.

The kaserne was home to over 2,000 German Soldiers. For them, Helenen Kaserne was a choice assignment, referred to as a "garden spot" by a former German Soldier stationed there during the war. Adolf Hitler even visited the kaserne.

During the German occupation of the base, most of the buildings that now serve as office buildings were used as troop billets, and the headquarters building was used to house female German troops.

Although the 5th Air Signal Headquarters moved to France in 1940, remaining contingents occupied Kelley throughout World War II. In 1944, 5th Air headquarters returned to Kelley, but remained only through April 1945 when they fled east in advance of the encroaching French Army.

### A Stuttgart post

On Dec. 5, 1945, Helenen Kaserne became an official American installation and was referred to initially as the Stuttgart Post. The first U.S. troops stationed there were members of the 7700th Troop Information and Education Group, according to information provided by the European Command historian office. From 1948 to 1951, a U.S. constabulary unit occupied Kelley.

The Stuttgart Post was renamed Kelley Barracks in 1952

### Who was Jonah Kelley?

A West Virginia native, Staff Sgt. Jonah E. Kelley was assigned to the U.S. Army's 78th Infantry Division, 311th Infantry Battalion during World War II.

According to his Medal of Honor citation (available online at www.cmohs.org), on Jan. 30 and 31, 1945, Kelley, squad leader of Company



Kellev

E, "led his men through intense mortar and small arms fire in repeated assaults on barricaded houses" in the German village of Kesternich.

Despite numerous wounds, Kelley "dashed into the open and attacked [the German] position singlehandedly through a hail of bullets."

He was hit several times during this last attack, falling to his knees just yards before reaching his objective. Nonetheless, Kelley managed to summon the last of his strength and empty his rifle into a machine gun nest, silencing the weapon inside before he died.

Kelley was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Sept. 10, 1945.

in honor of Staff Sgt. Jonah E. Kelley. (See box above.)

In November 1951, VII Corps was reactivated (having been deactivated in 1946 with the end of World War II – see box, right, for Corps history) and its headquarters was stationed in Stuttgart on Kelley.

The base was refurbished extensively during the 1950s and a PX snack bar, library, gym, chapel, officer's club, bowling alley and craft and hobby shop opened during that time.

Other units stationed on Kelley included the Special Troops Battalion, 34th Signal Detachment, 602nd Direct Air Support Center Squadron, 527th Transportation Company,

# VII Corps: The Jayhawks

irst activated in Remiremont, France, Aug. 19, 1918, U.S. Army, VII Corps first served as an administrative and training headquarters for American troops during World War I.

Deactivated in May 1919, VII Corps was reborn in 1942 during World War II, and its Soldiers landed on

the beaches of Normandy and participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

In March 1946 – with the end of World War II – the corps was deactivated once again, only to have its colors unfurled again in January

1951 in the face of the Cold War communist threat.

### From Normandy to Iraq

Known as the "Jayhawk" Corps (after a call sign used by the corps during the D-Day invasion on Normandy's Utah Beach), VII Corps was comprised of more than 35,000 Soldiers – including those in the VII Corps Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Engineer Brigade and 1st Armored Division, among others.

In 1990, elements of VII Corps went to Saudi Arabia to help enforce the United Nations' resolutions demanding and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal of Kuwait.

On Feb. 24, 1991, contingents of VII Corps (along with coalition forces), charged into southwestern Iraq and played an integral role in defeating the Iraqi Republican Guard during Operation Desert Storm.

### Final inactivation

In October 1991, VII Corps was ordered to inactivate for the third and final time.

An official farewell ceremony was held March 18,1992, near the Schlossplatz in downtown Stuttgart.

The event was at-

tended by nearly 400 U.S., German, Canadian and French Soldiers, as well as dignitaries including Stuttgart Lord Mayor Manfred Rommel; the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Robert Kimmitt; U.S. Secretary of the Army Michael Stone and the German Defense

The Corps was officially inactivated at Fort McPherson, Ga., in April 1992.

- Melanie Casey

Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg.

207th Military Intelligence Brigade and the 110th Military Police Platoon.

Kelley Barracks is now the home to the 6th Area Support Group; Naval Network and Space Operations Command, Detachment Echo; SPAWAR Europe and several hundred service members and their families.

Sources: EUCOM archives; "Kelley Barracks," Stuttgart Citizen, March 4, 1974; "VII Corps heads home," "Jayhawk symbolizes fighting spirit of corps," "VII Corps cases colors on glorious past," Stuttgart Citizen, March 22, 1992.

# Army reveals results of combat stress study

Doctors determine deployment to Iraq poses greater risk for post-traumatic stress disorder than does service in Afghanistan

**By Courtney Hickson** *Army News Service* 

ervice members deployed to the front lines in Iraq face a higher chance of developing post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental disorders than do their counterparts in Afghanistan, a recent Army study reported.

The study, published in the July 1 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, was led by Col. Charles W. Hoge, a medical doctor at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

### Soldiers, Marines studied

Members of three Army units and one Marine unit -5,386 Soldiers and 815 Marines – were surveyed for the study, which was conducted with service members who had various lengths of deployment.

Some Soldiers were surveyed in January 2003 before a yearlong deployment to Iraq. The second group responded to questions after a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, and a third group of Soldiers was surveyed after an eightmonth deployment to Iraq.

The Marines were surveyed after a six-month deployment to Iraq. All of the surveyed troops had been involved in hazardous security duties.

Hoge said the researchers focused exclusively on combat arms units and Army infantry during the initial invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, because those Soldiers and Marines would be more likely to have seen combat and have combat stress as a result.

### Mental heath resources

- **Army Community Service** 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 in Stuttgart; 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777 in Garmisch
- National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder www.ncptsd.org
- National Mental Health Information Center www.mentalhealth.org
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services www.hhs.gov
- National Institutes of Health www.nih.gov

Many of the Soldiers who had the greatest need for mental health care said they did not seek treatment out of fear of being stigmatized.

### PTSD more prevalent in Iraq

Eighteen percent of the Soldiers who responded to the survey questions after returning home from Iraq had PTSD, while 11.5 percent of those returning from Afghanistan fit within the broad definition of the disorder.

The surveyed Soldiers from Iraq had had a significantly higher exposure to combat than did those who had been deployed to Afghanistan.

"This is not generalized to all service members," Hoge said. "The initial ground experiences may be different ... What is unique is this is the first time we have looked at this so close to combat deployment," he said.

According to information on the Web site of the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD is a psychiatric disorder that can be caused when one witnesses or experiences a life-threatening event such as combat, a natural disaster or a serious accident.

PTSD sufferers, who may relive the causative experience

via nightmares or "flashbacks," may have feelings of detachment of sufficient severity and duration to impair their ability to conduct their daily lives.

### Fear impedes treatment

When asked if they had received professional help in the past months – a category that included help from a mental health care professional, a general medical doctor or a clergy member – 11 percent of Soldiers returning from Iraq said yes.

In the same group, more than 16 percent said they were interested in receiving professional help – but many of the Soldiers who had the greatest need for mental heath care said they did not seek treatment out of fear of being stigmatized.

"They are perceived that they may be treated differently," Hoge said. "That may not be the reality, but it could be enough to not want to seek help."

One of the challenges revealed by the study is finding a means of reducing the stigma associated with mental health treatment and encouraging Soldiers to seek help, Hoge said.

# Teen gathering million messages for troops

# California-based support effort also includes collecting CDs, DVDs for deployed service members

By K.L. Vantran

American Forces Press Service

Then California high school freshman Shauna Fleming says "thanks a million," she means it.

The 15-year-old founder of "A Million Thanks" has collected and distributed hundreds of thousands of letters of support for America's troops and veterans, but her goal is a 10-digit tally of messages sent.

To get the word out on her letter-writing campaign, Fleming has established a Web site, set up booths at NASCAR events and appeared on news shows. She even has her own Internet radio show.

#### Morale boosters

A student at Lutheran High School in Orange, Calif., Fleming said she has been contacted by many service members and their families who have told her the letters and emails help their morale.

"I have had the opportunity to hear from many Soldiers overseas who have received our letters," she said. "They've e-mailed me and even called me from Iraq to say thanks."

Fleming used the communication from deployed service members as an opportunity to ask them what else they could use. The answer: CDs and DVDs.



courtesy American Forces Press Service

High school freshman Shauna Fleming (red shirt) hands thank-you letters to veterans at the VA Hospital in Westwood, Calif. The teen has spearheaded a program that has collected and distributed more than 800,000 letters to troops and veterans, including thousands of messages for Soldiers from the Germany-based 1st Armored Division in Iraq.

She said she hopes people all over the United States will answer her call to send used music and movies along with their letters for her next mailing.

For more information about A Million Thanks:

#### http://amillionthanks.org

### One million and beyond

Though Fleming and her high school friends missed their June goal of one million letters, the teen said she knows they will reach their target sometime soon – but that will not be the end of the effort.

"The incoming mail has slowed because I think people thought we were only collecting the letters for Military Appreciation Month [in May] but this campaign is year-round," she said. "I know we'll hit our goal pretty soon. When we do, we'll go for another million."

Fleming's voice began to go worldwide after radio station owner Chris Murch, a former Marine captain, contacted her after seeing her on a Fox News report on Memorial Day.

"Doing an Internet radio show gives me the opportunity to tell people around the world that Americans do appreciate what our military men and women do for our country, and

not to believe everything they read," Fleming said. "It also lets me inform everyone what I hear from our Soldiers who are out there, and how we can help them and their families."

### Got anger? Get Anger Management

Army Community Service holds a four-part Anger Management workshop beginning Aug. 3, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
To register call ACS at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.



# 'One Source' offers solutions to troop, family problems

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

ervice members and their families have a new resource for solving problems any time of the day or night.

The Defense Department's "Military One Source" is a round-the-clock resource that consolidates services previously operated by each branch of the military, said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

Molino said Military One Source is intended to complement assistance already offered to military families. The new program, he said, "leverages technology and enables DoD to provide assistance to families and service members via the Internet or a toll-free telephone number."

Military One Source can be reached at the following numbers:

- Toll free from the United States (800) 342-9647.
- International toll free 800-3429-6477.
- International collect (484) 530-5747.

#### Quality help

Phone calls to Military One Source are answered by individuals with at least a master's degree in social work or some kind of counseling service, Molino said. "That person is trained specifically to deal with military issues ... so they're very sensitive to what you ask," he said.

One Source staff members won't make judgments about situations, Molino said. "They're there to listen to what you have to say, evaluate it and give you the beginnings of an answer," Molino said.

#### Range of assistance

Military One Source addresses a wide range of situations: from needing a plumber in the middle of the night to fix a broken pipe, to needing veterinary service for a sick dog. It also handles challenges like helping families new to an area find child care or information about the school system, summer jobs – whatever is needed, Molino said.

"One Source can get all that information and provide it to you in a most efficient manner, whether it be electronically or getting back to you on the telephone," Molino said.

When service members are deployed, Molino said, they can do so knowing that help for their families is only a phone call away.

"I would find it very comfortable to know that my family back home has that option, that service available. And they don't have to wait

# Program gets thumbs-up from users

John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, said Military One Source is getting rave reviews from its most important critics: the service members and family members for whom the program was designed.

"I really like the warmth and empathy of the woman on the other end," wrote one Army spouse. "It was hard for me to even reach out for help. To not have a rejecting or condemning, judgmental voice was awesome."

An Air Force spouse expressed gratitude for the quick responses she received about her problem. "The follow-up phone calls were terrific," she wrote. "Before I was sent material, a representative called me to ensure that I was sent exactly what I needed. I also received a phone call to ensure I was satisfied with the materials I received."

A Marine Corps spouse wrote that One Source was "a true blessing."

– Rudi Williams

for the family center to open," Molino said.

"We can do things instantly, any time of the day or night," he continued. "If there's a language problem, One Source is able to provide services in more than 100 languages, usually in less than a minute."

### Extended eligibility

Military One Source also is available to National Guardsmen and Army Reserve Soldiers called to active duty for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"The Guard and Reserve components initially went in a different direction with a different provider," Molino said. "Then they realized that One Source actually was the gold standard, and they shifted over after about six months."

For more about Military One Source visit https://www.military onesource.com or call Army Community Service (430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 in Stuttgart; 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777 in Garmisch).

# It's your future ... OTE for it!

### **Voting FAQ**

Answers to frequently-asked questions about voting:

#### Who can vote absentee?

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for federal office. In addition, all members of the uniformed services and their family members may vote absentee in federal, state and local elections.

#### How do I apply for an absentee ballot?

The Federal Post Card Application is accepted by all states and territories as an application for registration and for absentee ballot. The online version of the FPCA is available at www.fvap.gov, but the form must be printed and mailed to your local election official.

#### If I do not maintain a legal residence in the United States, what is my "legal state of residence?"

For voting purposes, your legal state of residence is the state or territory in which you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. The right to vote extends to U.S. citizens overseas - even those who do not have property or other ties in their last state or territory of residence or whose intent to return to that state or territory may be uncertain.

For more answers visit www.fvap.org.

in a democracy impairs the security of all.

### Overseas voting resources

John F. Kennedy

- Stuttgart Bill Bond (421-2405/civ. 0711-729-2405; bondw@6asg.army.mil)
- Garmisch Jessica Roberson (440-2638/civ. 08821-750-638; robersonj@garmisch.army.mil)
- 6th Area Support Group Web site A complete list of voting assistance officers in Stuttgart and Garmisch is available at www. stuttgart.army.mil (click "Vote").
- Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site A wide range of information about the program is posted at www.fvap.gov.
- Voting Information Center Recorded messages from U.S. senators, representatives, governors and secretaries of state (incumbents and candidates) are available toll-free from Germany at 0800-100-7428.

## The ignorance of one voter Ten ways to ensure your absentee ballot is counted:

- 1. Start by contacting your unit or organization voting assistance officer for help with absentee registration
- 2. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site (www.fvap.gov) for information on the absentee registration and voting process.
- 3. Ensure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or online versions of the Federal Post Card Application.
- 4. Make sure your local election official has your current mailing address.
  - 5. Sign and date all election materials.
- 6. Fulfill your state's witness or notary requirements (if required).
  - 7. Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.
- 8. Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner – no later than September.
- 9. VOTE and be sure to mail your ballot no later than
- 10. Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your state absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

### Permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing

July 28, 1 p.m., on Patch Barracks (building 2318, room 4). Registration is required. Call 430-4064/civ. 0711-680-4064.

## Walk this way: Annual Volksmarch set for Stuttgart

### 30th-anniversary event to start, end on Robinson Barracks

By Hugh C. McBride

alkers and runners, wanderers and ramblers, take note: your moments in the Stuttgart sun this year are July 24 and 25.

The Robinson Barracks community center (building 151) will be the start/finish point for the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club's 30th annual Volksmarch, a two-day celebration of outdoor recreation and international camaraderie.

The Stuttgart event's scenic 5-, 10- and 20-kilometer trails annually draw thousands of walkers and runners, and GAWC president Wayne Henry is confident that this year's routes will continue that tradition.

"We will walk through the beautiful heart of Stuttgart, with its vineyards, Killesberg Park, Rosengarten and Wilhelma Tierpark, along with views of the Neckar River," Henry said. "The club council members have worked diligently to provide a quality walk."

An entry fee of 1.50 euro buys participants the opportunity to walk the trail of their choice – and get an official completion stamp from the *Internationaler Volkssportverband*, the multinational organization that oversees Volksmarching and other similar noncompetitive recreational activities.

Paying 3.80 euros entitles a marcher to not only a walk and a stamp, but also a 30th-anniversary commemorative glass emblazoned with the GAWC logo.

Food and drink will be available for purchase in a fest tent at the start/finish point.

For more information about Volksmarching or the German-American Wandering Club visit the GAWC Web site at www.volksmarching.com.

### Stuttgart GAWC Volksmarch

*July 24 and 25* 

**Start point:** Robinson Barracks community center (building 151).

**July 24** – 5- and 10-km walkers start 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 20-km walkers start 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**July 25** – 5- and 10-km walkers start 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 20-km walkers start 6:30 a.m. to noon.

### Volksmarching 101

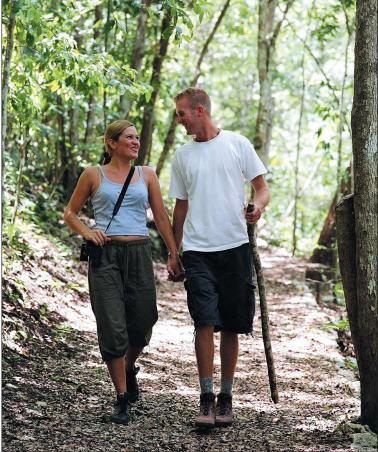
**Trail lengths** – Usually 5-, 10- or 20-kilometer options; marathon courses of 42 kilometers or more are sometimes also offered.

**Cost** – 1.50 euro average start-card fee; 3.80 euro average "medallion" or prize fee (optional); marathon fees are slightly higher.

**Participants** – Families, singles, pets, adults, children, club members and newcomers – events are open to all.

**Facilities** – Start halls, often a town's *Sporthalle* (athletic center) or community meeting hall; several *Kontrollstelles*, or check points, along the way where marchers get their cards stamped, have something to eat or drink (pets, too) and relax before returning to the trail.

**Attire** – Anything from Lycra to *Lederhosen* (knee-length leather pants); comfort is key.



www.photos.con

Friendship and fresh air are just two of Volksmarching's many attractions. Walkers and runners of all ages and ability levels are welcome at Stuttgart's July 24 and 25 event.